

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/579,646

Applicant(s)

NAKAMURA ET AL.

Examiner

David L. Ometz

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2622

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amdt filed 3/22/06 and the terminal disclaimer filed 5/11/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are cls. 1, 2, 4-8, 13, 17-19, 10-12, 14-16, renumbered consecutively as allowed claims 1-17.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

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1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

In claim 4, line 3, --pixel gain amplifier-- has been inserted before "circuit" for clarity of antecedence.

In claim 7, line 3, --pixel gain amplifier-- has been inserted before "circuit"

In claim 12, line 3, --pixel gain amplifier-- has been inserted before "circuit"

In claim 17, line 2, --pixel gain amplifier-- has been inserted before "circuit"

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

With regard to independent claim 1, the prior art of record neither anticipates nor renders obvious the instant combination in a correlated double sampling pixel gain amplifier circuit that has, *inter alia*, "an input capacitor onto which input capacitor charge from an input pixel is sampled during a first of first and second time phases, wherein the input capacitor is functionally coupled to the input of the amplifier and to the input of the pixel gain amplifier circuit during the first and second time phases."

With regard to independent claim 10, the prior art of record neither anticipates nor renders obvious the instant combination in a correlated double sampling pixel gain amplifier

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circuit that has, *inter alia*, “means for varying the gain of the amplifier from a first gain for a first pixel to a second gain for a second pixel, wherein the first and second gains are determined, at least in part, by an input capacitor and a feedback capacitor; wherein the input capacitor is always functionally coupled to the input of the amplifier and the input of the pixel gain amplifier circuit.”

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

3. The examiner notes with regard to the Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) filed 5/14/01, that the references therein have been lined through by the examiner because said references have already been considered in the IDS of 6/21/04, as evidenced by examiner initials and signature in the IDS of 6/21/04.

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to David L. Ometz at telephone number (571) 272-7593.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David L. Ometz', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David L. Ometz
SPE
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DLO
5/22/06